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Letter dated 15 September 2009 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the attached concept paper for the Security Council summit in connection with nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, to be held on 24 September 2009 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2009 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept paper for the Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament

Preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons is fundamental to the security of nations and to the peace of the world. As President Obama noted earlier this year, "One nuclear weapon exploded in one city — be it New York or Moscow, Islamabad or Mumbai, Tokyo or Tel Aviv, Paris or Prague — could kill hundreds of thousands of people. And no matter where it happens, there is no end to what the consequences might be — for our global safety, our security, our society, our economy, to our ultimate survival." With the recent G8 statement in L'Aquila on non-proliferation, the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in March 2010 and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to follow, there is an opportunity for important global attention and focus on this critical security issue.

On 24 September, the United States will convene the Security Council at the level of Heads of State and Government to discuss nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. This Security Council Summit will be chaired by President Obama and is intended to draw attention at the highest levels of government to the nuclear dangers confronting the international community and the urgency of taking concrete steps to address them.

The Security Council Summit will focus on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament broadly and not focus on any specific countries. The goals will be to underscore the global reach of proliferation threats; the broadly shared obligation to respond; the positive steps taken to reduce nuclear dangers; and the essential role of the Security Council in addressing growing and pressing nuclear threats.

Three key and related nuclear threat reduction topics will be discussed: arms control and nuclear disarmament, strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and denying and disrupting illicit trafficking in materials of proliferation concern and securing such materials wherever they might be located.

Specifically, the Summit can highlight and bolster international support for multilateral nuclear arms control treaties and ongoing nuclear disarmament efforts, including a reaffirmation of the commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to work towards a world without nuclear weapons.

The Summit is also intended to be an opportunity to build support for Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty negotiations, the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol, ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and strategic arms control, including new START negotiations.

With a goal of strengthening the existing international nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Summit can facilitate support for technical assistance and access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, and efforts to improve and ensure compliance with non-proliferation and safeguards obligations and to prevent abuse of the NPT withdrawal provision.

The Summit is an opportunity to explore means to enhance States' abilities to counter proliferation financing and eliminate procurement networks. Furthermore, the Summit can reinforce implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including through continued funding to assist States in implementing the resolution's key provisions.

Finally, the Summit is intended to underscore the importance of an accelerated effort to secure nuclear weapons materials around the world and to build support for establishing and sharing best practices for nuclear security.

All of these elements are part of a comprehensive approach to reducing global nuclear dangers and risks posed by terrorist acquisition of nuclear weapons or materials. The threats are urgent and real, and the role of the Security Council in addressing these dangers is unique and indispensable. The Summit meeting will help bring renewed international attention and determination to address these issues.